

P-490/NA-88-362 GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORITY AND APPROVING RATE
STRUCTURE SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE WITH GEOGRAPHICAL DEAVERAGING
DIRECTIVES

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Barbara Beerhalter	Chair
Cynthia A. Kitlinski	Commissioner
Norma McKanna	Commissioner
Robert J. O'Keefe	Commissioner
Darrel L. Peterson	Commissioner

In the Matter of a Request by Advanced
Business Telephone, Inc. for a Certificate of
Authority to Resell Telecommunications
Service Within the State

ISSUE DATE: December 15, 1988

DOCKET NO. P-490/NA-88-362

ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORITY AND APPROVING RATE
STRUCTURE SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE
WITH GEOGRAPHICAL DEAVERAGING
DIRECTIVES

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On May 31, 1988 Advanced Business Telephone, Inc. (the Company) filed an application for a certificate of authority under Minn. Stat. § 237.16, subd. 4 (1986) to resell intrastate long distance telecommunications services. The Company also filed tariffs containing its rates and terms and conditions of service.

The Department of Public Service (the Department) examined the filing and recommended its approval. The Department noted that certain of the Company's rates were based on geographical deaveraging, but recommended their approval pending completion of ongoing Commission rulemaking on geographical deaveraging.

On November 23, 1988 the Commission issued an Order requiring companies providing intrastate long distance services to eliminate geographical deaveraging from their rate structures or to show good cause why their deaveraged rates were just and reasonable. In the Matter of the Petition of the Office of Attorney General for an Order Concerning Geographically Deaveraged Long-Distance Rates, Docket No. P-999/C-88-615, Order Granting Petition and Requiring Filing, November 23, 1988. The Department subsequently amended its recommendation to include compliance with that Order.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Commission finds that the Company should be granted a certificate of authority to provide long distance telecommunications services within the State of Minnesota. The Department's examination of the Company's management and financial condition demonstrates an ability to provide safe and reliable service and to respond promptly to any customer complaints. The services the Company will offer are subject to competition, and its entry into the market is therefore a matter of public convenience and necessity. Authority to operate will be granted.

The rates filed by the Company are not excessive and are comparable to those of other companies offering the same services. They are just and reasonable as required by Minn. Stat. § 237.06 (1986). They will be approved, subject to the constraints imposed by the geographical deaveraging Order cited above. The Company is already bound by the deaveraging Order, and it is mentioned here only for purposes of clarity.

The terms and conditions of service set forth in the filing are also just and reasonable and will be approved.

ORDER

1. Advanced Business Telephone, Inc. is hereby granted authority to provide intrastate long distance telecommunications services under Minn. Stat. § 237.16, subd. 4 (1986).
2. The rates and terms and conditions of service contained in the Company's tariff filing of May 31, 1988 are approved, subject to the Company's compliance with the November 23, 1988 Order in docket no. P-999/C-88-615, requiring the elimination of geographical deaveraging in long distance rates or a good cause showing that particular deaveraged rates are just and reasonable.
3. This Order shall become effective immediately.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Mary Ellen Hennen
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)